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ConnectMed Ltd, an African digital health startup, signs agreement with Merck KGaA to take over telehealth solution in Kenya

ConnectMed Ltd entered into an agreement with Merck KGaA who will take over the company's innovative telehealth applications and related management systems. Until December 2018 ConnectMed offered telehealth services for acute and chronic primary health conditions in Kenya and South Africa. Merck plans to leverage ConnectMed's platform in connection with CURAFA™ points of care in Kenya for novel independent services.

With the CURAFA™ initiative, Merck is exploring innovative models to improve primary healthcare access for the underserved population, while strengthening the local healthcare system. The CURAFA™ points of care are run by local independent pharmaceutical technologists, clinical officers and nurses, who provide pharmaceutical and clinical services, medicine, disease awareness, digital health solutions and rapid diagnostic test, supported by a modern facility experience.

Starting in 2017, ConnectMed developed telehealth kiosks to provide its services within Kenyan pharmacies. It operated in over 30 locations including branches of the largest Kenyan pharmacy chains, as well as Merck's CURAFA™ points of care. This is how both companies got in contact. "We are excited that Merck will be utilizing our telehealth solution to apply it to their CURAFA™ platform," said Melissa McCoy, ConnectMed's CEO.

Following the handover of the company's telehealth solutions to Merck and others ConnectMed will cease operations. Over its lifetime, the company launched three direct- to-consumer digital health products in Kenya & South Africa and served over 8000 patients, along with corporate clients. It raised over \$300,000 in investment and was supported by University of Cape Town's Bertha Centre, University of Oxford's Skoll Centre, Entrepreneur First and Katapult Accelerator.

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